AMPLIFIED: BLACK SUPER HERO MAGIC MAMA

BY INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN | DIRECTED BY DAVID KOTÉ
A DIGITAL EVENT
The mission of the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is to advance the art, scholarship, and appreciation of theatre and dance and its place in society. We pursue this mission collectively and as individuals through theatrical productions, scholarship and publication, presentation of our work in national and international venues, formal instruction, and individual mentoring.

The Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and is a member of the University/Resident Theatre Association and United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

IU Theatre & Dance wishes to acknowledge and honor the Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi, and Shawnee people, on whose ancestral homelands and resources Indiana University was built.

LIVE PERFORMANCE

The video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Developed during a residency at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center’s National Playwrights Conference in 2017, Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director; Preston Whiteway, Executive Director

Black Super Hero Magic Mama was the winning play in the 2016 WomenWorks National Playwriting Competition, a program of The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Workshop production at Trustus Theatre, Columbia, SC, Chad Henderson, Artistic Director

Black Super Hero Magic Mama was Produced by Geffen Playhouse, Matt Shakman, Artistic Director; Gil Cates, Jr., Executive Director

A DIGITAL EVENT | OCTOBER 16–17, 2020
Cast

SABRINA JACKSON/MAASAI ANGEL
Tanya Freeman

TRAMARION JACKSON
Richard David

LENA EVERS/NARRATOR
Adrienne D. Embry

FLAT JOE/JOSEPH A. HUGHES/BLACK SUPERMAN
Anthony Campbell

OFFICER DAVE LESTER/DEATH TAP
Christopher Plonka

COACH COREY BRACKETT/DEEP THINKER/HOST
Devin Cook

CONNIE WRIGHT/LADY VULTURE
Meloddy Gao

TOM BLACKMAN/HUMAN HYENA
Devin McDuffy

STAGE DIRECTIONS
Carolynn Stoudor

TIME: Present.
PLACE: Chicago

Production staff

Production Manager
Trish Hausmann

Digital Operations Manager
Reuben Lucas

Digital Operations Team
Chris Centinario
Madison Colquette
Bobby Coyne
Gavin Wendell Holman Douglas
Trish Hausmann
Laura Judson
Macy Kloville
Marie Pipinich
Lexi Silva

Department Voice, Speech, and Dialogue Coach
Nancy Lipschultz

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I. Christopher Berg

Department Props and Scenic Artist Supervisor
Dan Tracy

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Rachel Burke
Spencer Gjerde
Valeriyia Nedyvga
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Ben Ramos

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Robbie Stanton

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Anne Sorenson

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Betsy Smith

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Lily Howder
Jeremiah Kearns
Russell Long
Lee Anne Meeks

Department Sound Designer/Engineer
Andrew Hopson

Audience Development Team
Brynn Jones
Carolynn Stoudor
Chris Centinario

Closed Captions
Brynn Jones

The Production Manager is a member of the Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Department Production Technical Director, Lighting Supervisor, and Costume Shop Supervisor are members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 618 or 893.
Welcome!

What a year! This is a brave new world for everyone, and the performing arts is truly feeling the impact. It is requiring our resilience, innovation, and patience to be sure.

With Broadway dark until the end of May 2021 and many theatre and dance companies closed, communities are feeling the impact of the loss of live performance and the gathering of audience communities to share in a performative event. But we are excited for the new world of theatre and dance emerging post pandemic. A world where theatre and dance work towards dismantling systemic racism and actively and continually acknowledges trauma and creates space for healing. A world with equitable and plentiful access to humane and sustainable resources and space for artists, makers, and audiences. A world that values integrity, empathy, and dignity unconditionally.

This year we bring you work via online streaming. Although it is not ideal, it does serve several critical parts of our academic mission. It provides time for engagement between students and faculty in discussing, rehearsing, and exploring our work. This provides opportunity for critical and creative thinking and problem solving. Our online season is also providing a platform to introduce our students, faculty, and our steadfast audience members a place to experience readings of new work or lesser known work. We are particularly grateful to have several guest artists working with us on our Amplified: A Series of Plays by Black Authors, Sounding Bodies, and Twelfth Night. Because we are online and to ensure the safety of everyone during the pandemic, we are utilizing more simplified design elements. Yet, it is important that all of our students experience a robust process and therefore you will see pre-show and post-show interviews, discussions, video features, and resources of the theoretical design processes including the realized projects created by our student technologists and makers.

We are also delighted to feature our season with no charge. However, producing any work and having guest artists on our season still requires financial and human resources. We are indebted to our dedicated Associate Producers this year and the continued support of our Theatre Circle members. We are also grateful for our digital operations team this year which is led by Assistant Professor Reuben Lucas. They’ve been an invaluable resource.

We thank you for your commitment to our theatre, your continued support of our students, faculty, and our mission. Furthermore, we are grateful for a year of hard work, not only in our continued production endeavors, but also our non-negotiable actions to address issues around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We miss our live audiences. We miss YOU! We look forward to coming together again in our magnificent theatres to experience live theatre and dance together again.

With Gratitude,

Professor Linda Pisano, Chair

Dirctor's note

Black Lives Matter.

Telling authentic diverse stories Matter.

Serving underrepresented populations, both within productions and as reflected in audiences Matter.

In fact, it should be AMPLIFIED.

I was thrilled when asked to come back to Indiana University to be part of the Amplified Series. Having received my M.F.A. in directing at IU and been part of the community, I know all too well how important it is to experience stories beyond your immediate scope of existence. This is what allows us to have empathy for the struggles of others and maybe become an ally and friend.

Inda Craig-Galván’s Black Super Hero Magic Mama centres around an African American mother named Sabrina and her 14-year-old son Tramarion who was tragically killed by a police officer. Unable to cope with the loss of her son, she retreats to the superhero world created by Tramarion and his friend Flat Joe. Black Super Hero Magic Mama is an emotional roller coaster allowing us to see inside Sabrina's worlds as she struggles to free herself from guilt, pain and regret. Our superhero must battle her way back as so many mothers have had to do after the death of a child, especially when the child's life was taken by a policeman who is supposed to Protect and Serve.

Thank you for sharing this time with US.

David Koté
ANTHONY CAMPBELL
(Flat Joe/Joseph A. Hughes/Black Superman)

is ecstatic to be a part of Black Superhero Magic Mama as a guest artist. Anthony has been acting professionally for 5 years since making his debut at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. He is excited to lend his talents alongside the rest of the cast. You can follow what he’s doing via Instagram by following him @_madskills

DEVIN COOK
(Coach Corey Brackett/Deep Thinker)

is a junior majoring in Exercise Science with a minor in Theatre & Drama. Recent theatre credits include: jelly beans (Milton/Jelly Beans) Streamers (Roger), and Welcome to College (Andre). Film Credits Include: Out of Mind (Will).

RICHARD DAVID
(Tramarion Jackson)

is Akron-born and Atlanta-raised with theatre credits including Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Griffin Theatre Company, SideShow Theatre, Interrobang Theatre and First Floor Theatre. Regional Theatre credits include Every Tongue Confess at Horizon Theatre Company. Film credits include Addicted To You streaming now on the UMC and Unconditional. Television credits include Chicago PD, Chicago Med, Brothers From The Suburbs, and Empire. He is represented by Stewart Talent.

ADRIANNE D. EMBRY
(Lena Evers/Host)

is a senior pursuing her B.A. in Theatre & Drama. She is a founder/president of IU’s Black, Brown, and Beige Theatre Troupe and recipient of the Suzanne Collins & Charles Pryor Scholarship. Her previous works include IU mainstage productions: jelly beans (Destiny/Jelly Beans), Hamlet (Fortinbras/Ensemble), Haus of Mirth (Edie) and Barbecue (Adlean). Outside of IU, she has been a part of Wabash’s production of The African Company Presents: Richard III as Ann. Adrienne is also an award winning slam poet. She has won the Eric Sharp Gateway Poetry Award for her poem “On Why I Can Never Bear A Child” and the same poem received an honorable mention for the Marianne Hedges Award. Along with these accolades she received an honorable mention for her poem “Whites Define Post Racial Using the Blood of Blacks” in a Rebecca Pitts Poetry Award competition. Adrienne is from the far eastside of Indianapolis.
**Artistic team**

**TANYA FREEMAN**  
(Sabrina Jackson/Maasai Angel)  
is an Atlanta stage, tv, film and VO artist. Some of her previous stage credits include: Pipeline and The Mountaintop (Marietta’s New Theatre in the Square), King Hedley II (New African Grove Theatre Co), Things That Hurt (Resurgence Theatre), The Rooting Place (Impact Theatre/Academy Theatre), Mama Bear (Out of Box Theatre Co), Indigo (Yellow Dream Productions/Midtown Intl Theatre Festival in NYC), Daniel Guyton’s Prison Monologues, Whatever Christmas (Songs of Karibu), Chainz/Broken (Rising Sage Theatre Co) and Our Town (The Renaissance Project Theatre Co.)

**MELODY GAO**  
(Connie Wright/Lady Vulture)  
is a senior from Carmel, IN majoring in environmental management, with minors in sustainable fashion and law and public policy. She has previously performed in dance productions at IU and competed in the Indiana Retold Story Slam. This is her first theatre production at Indiana University.

**DEVIN MCDUFFY**  
(Tom Blackman/Human Hyena)  
is a freshman B.A. student in Theatre and Drama. This is his first show here at IU. For Lawrence Central HS: Mary Poppins (George Banks), Rumors (Ken), Hairspray (Mr. Pinky), Shrek The Musical (Papa Ogre). For Footlite Theatre: Bring It On: The Musical (Cameron). Devin is from Indianapolis, Indiana.

**CAROLYN STOUDE**  
(Stage Directions)  
is a recent graduate of Indiana University and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. She is a SAFD certified Actor-Combatant. For IU Theatre: jelly beans (Kira), Ascendant (Chrissy), Hamlet (Gravedigger #2), Haus of Mirth (Gigi Trenor), Barbecue (Marie), Julius Caesar (Lucilia), Other: The Tempest (Ariel), Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Hermia), Blithe Spirit (Ruth), Plaza Suite (Norma), Twelve Angry Jurors (Juror #4), Our Town (Emily), Hunger Games (Katniss), Seven Keys to Baldpate Inn (Myra Thornhill), Over the River (Caitlin O’Hare), House of Blue Leaves (Little Nun), and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (White Witch). She is originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**CHRIS PLONKA**  
(Offcer Dave Lester/Death Tap)  
is a third year M.F.A. Acting student, hailing from Swansea, Massachusetts. Chris has been seen on the IU Stage in Ascendant (Jojo), Hamlet (Player King/Gravedigger), By the Bog of Cats (Xavier Cassidy), Titus Andronicus (Bassianus), and Barbecue (James T). Chris has also been seen in the IUST production of Little Shop of Horrors (Orin Sciverillo, et. al), JTB’s production of Cherry Docs (Mike), as well as numerous productions as actor and director in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Black Lives Matter.

**DAVID KOTÉ**  
(Director)  
is an award-winning director, actor, and educator. He began at Tri-Cities High School of Visual and Performing Arts and acclaimed Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble of Atlanta. Koté earned a B.A. degree in speech and theatre arts from Dillard University and M.F.A. in directing from Indiana University. His theatre credits include: Jitney, Pill Hill, In the Red and Brown Water, Purile, Flyin’ West, Once on this Island, Times, The Last Season, Joe Turner’s Come and Gone, My Children! My Africa! and Macbeth. He has also appeared in HBO’s A Lesson Before Dying, CBS’s Mama Flora’s Family and TNT’s Passing Glory. He has performed in South Africa, Belgium, Amsterdam and all over the United States. Koté served as Director of Theatre Arts at Tri-Cities High School Visual and Performing Arts Magnet where he received many awards for his work including The Charles Loridans Foundation for excellence and leadership in theatre education. Koté’s production of The Color Purple at Actor’s Express is 2019 Suzi Bass Award winner for Outstanding Production-Musical and Outstanding Direction Musical.

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**VALERIYA NEDVIGA**  
(Scenic and Sound Designer)  
is a second-year M.F.A. student in scenic design. For IU Theatre she was props master and projections operator for Big Fish. She worked as stage manager for OSU Opera & Lyric Theatre and Opera Project Columbus, as assistant stage manager for Opera Columbus, as sound designer and engineer for Weathervane Playhouse and OSU Department of Theatre. She participated in world premiere of opera Ramala with OSU Opera & Lyric Theatre and opera Flood with Opera Columbus. Past summer she was a props master for Richmond Shakespeare Festival, scenic designer for Weathervane Young Artists’ Repertory theatre, and a critic in residence for BorderLight Cleveland International Theatre and Fringe Festival. Valeriya has a Masters in Violin Performance and String Pedagogy from the Ohio State University. She is also a concertmaster of Ashland Symphony Orchestra. Valeriya is from Togliatty, Russia.
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Theatre Circle was founded in 1978 to encourage the study and practice of theatre arts at IU and to promote an awareness of IU Theatre throughout the community. Theatre Circle members enjoy a variety of benefits, including acknowledgment in all IU Theatre programs; emailed information about all performances; glimpses behind the scenes; exclusive talks by directors, designers, and theatre scholars; special event invitations; theatre-related travel opportunities; reserved seating at numerous performances and events; and much more.

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For more information, please pick up a Theatre Circle brochure in the lobby or contact Laura Judson at ljudson@iu.edu or by phone at 812-855-7699; or visit the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance website at theatre.indiana.edu and select the Theatre Circle link.

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